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ANNOUNCEMENT.

The response for the Gold Medal essay competition was good, the essays were of a fairly high standard. The essay on "The perfect Investigator" by Sri M. E. Decunha, I. P. S., Superintendent of Police, Sultanpur, U. P. has been adjudged the best. The author wons the Gold Medal. The essay will be published in the next issue.

EDITORIAL.

This is the first issue of the Madras Police Journal after the old Madras State was divided into two. A Special Issue was published on the eve of partition and the indications are that it has been well received.

The range of contributors have necessarily narrowed down because of the partition and therefore, an additional responsibility is cast on officers remaining in the State to keep the Journal going. It is not a very happy precedent to get contributions to the magazine through official pressure or request. Surely there are quite a large number of officers who have experience enough or knowledge of police work either in theory or in practice to help make the journal the means of educating junior members of the force and to make available the benefits of their experience and studies to others. The successes of the Special Issue proves this contention.

63 articles were received for the Gold Medal Essay Competition. These articles are under examination. The result will be published in the next issue together with the prize winning article. A selection of the remaining articles will also be published by and by.

The partition has resulted in unexpected reversions from a higher cadre to a lower in the case of many in the Residuary State. It is hoped that these reversions will be for a very short period and that the morale of the force will continue to be as high as ever.

Principal, P. T. C., Vellore & Editor
The Madras Poilce Journal

THE THIRD ANNUAL STATE POLICE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET.

The following is the address delivered by Sri J. Devasahayam, B. A., I. P., Inspector-General of Police, Madras, presiding over the Third Annual State Police Championship Meet held at the Police Training College Grounds, Vellore, on 8–9–1953 :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my most pleasant duty to say a few words before the prizes are distributed by Mrs. Devasahayam. First and foremost, I must congratulate the winners of this evening on their excellent performance, not merely because they are the best sportsmen of the State, but more because they are going ahead to represent the State in the Inter-State Police Meet, up in the North. So, along with the congratulations that I am now giving them, I wish them the best of luck in the Inter-State Police Sports Meet. I have every reason to hope that they will bring laurels from there.

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is not merely in sports that our policemen have been exceptionally clever. I must also refer to their histrionic talents. It is not likely that many of you who are present here had occasion to witness their performance of yesterday and the day before. But I was one of the fortunate ones. Their performance was indeed excellent. Permit me to say, that whatever they had to represent by way of demonstration, especially their hardship in connection with the sliding backwards of officers to subordinate ranks-Sub-Inspectors becoming head-constables I take this occasion publicly to announce that nothing has been left undone by me. I do hope that my efforts will bear its fruits and in fullness of time, I will have the occasion to announce with great pleasure that such of those who have had their training here will resume the position for which they are trained.

I referred to the athletic activities and the histrionic talents demonstrated here. The Police Officers who have represented the

various ranges, I must say, are exceptionally good in their regular police work. Policemen of all ranks throughout Madras State have exceptionally distinguished themselves, not merely in their day-to-day work; it may be in their beat work, it may be to meet the exigencies in connection with a strike situation, it may be for bandobust duty in connection with the visit of a high personage, it may be to deal with a highway robbery or dacoity, it may be to deal with a bus-hold-up case, we have had varied exigencies from Cape Comorin right upto Srikakulam, from South Kanara to Bellary District--I must say here and publicly now that the policemen of all ranks, from the constables right upwards to the District Officers, have shown exceptional devotion to duty. I must thank them publicly for all that on this occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have thanked my officers and men, but I take this occasion to say that they should not rest content on their cars. To-day we are standing on the eve of a new era. I may perhaps become a little sentimental on this occasion and I request your forgiveness for becoming so. When I say that we are standing on the eve of a new era, I refer to the birth of the new State. The birth of a new State is undoubtedly a happy occasion. It also gives rise to thoughts of the past as well as of the future. Probably, we have taken the historic occasion to assemble here, as some aetors of yesterday put it most delightfully, that we have been exceptionally fortunate to assemble here, within the precincts of the fort, within the precincts of our traditional Police Training College, to celebrate this occasion. Side by side, may be, when others are at strife, we are really gathering together -we have gathered together, not with any feelings of strife, but on the other hand, with feelings of brotherhood. May be that this will be a matter for others to copy and we are indeed happy to be fortunate that we have shown them a lead.

I must say a few words of advice to my policemen. I say they have done remarkably well in the past. Whatever and where ever your paths of duty may lie, do not hesitate to be firm, being always

polite, of course. "Courtesy" is our watch-word. We have tried by various ways and means to instil in you, my Policemen, a sense of courtesy, so that we might win the respect of the general public. If we give them courtesy, we not only get an equal return, I might say, we get it two-fold or three-fold. Do not under any circumstances forget that watch-word "Courtesy."

Ladies and Gentlemen, We have striven hard to please you. By saying to please you,' I am saying that without your help our very existence is of no purpose and is of no value. Where a policeman does his duty or he goes out for bandobust, he will be of no use unless and until we are able to get your support. For that purpose, we have devised various ways and means. I request you to take me by my word and visit our police stations. That will be a great thing. We value it most. We consider that you will be visiting our house—may be that sometimes there are disinclinations. There may be suspicions, but I tell you as the head of the Police Force of the State, I cannot make it more emphatic, I request you to visit our Police Stations. I dare say that then you will be able to understand that we are really men, we are really human beings, and we are here to help you at any time and under any circumstances. If you have any doubt about it, take my word for granted, we are here to help you first and foremost. If, at any time, you are unable to visit a police station, I request you, when you happen to go to Madras, you telephone to me. I will see that you are able to visit the City Police Office, which has all the conveniences of a Police Station and I will arrange that you are able to visit the Criminal Investigation Department, which is otherwise known as the 'C. I. D.' Then you will be able to see eye to eye with us. Then you will see how we are striving to help you and I am quite certain that the result will be that you will be able to come forward and help us. Ladies and Gentlemen, I have said much and I would say one word more and finish. I may tell you that we have arranged by various ways and means the Station Vigilance Committees

in Madras City and in the muffasil, Village Vigilance Committees. The members of the public have been freely coming forward to help us and I take this occasion to request that you also join with the other members of the public to help us. I must say that we Police of the State are strong. I tell you we are strong in the sense that we have the local police, we have the Armed Reserve, we have the Special Armed Police and the Malabar Special Police. I need not describe the variety of arms they have got, because it will be a mere advertisement, but I must tell you, that we are strong enough. If you want us to come to your help, well, do not hesitate to come to us.

We have provided the general public in Madras City with a facility. Simply ring up 93. If you ring up 93, out we are with you at your place in five minutes in Madras City. I am trying to extend the same '93 system' out in the Districts, whereever there are telephones, whereever there are public call offices. Ladies and Gentlemen, if you require help from us, you try to ring up to the District Superintendent of Police and say "93" please, as the Inspector-General of Police announced at Vellore." You may be quite sure that the District Police will be at your doors in five minutes. The last word I am requesting you is, as I said before, we value a word of encouragement from you more than anything else. That is a tonic which can never be replaced. If you say "well done, constable," the Inspector-General of Police feels that it is a compliment paid to him personally. I request, Ladies and Gentlemen, if you have an occasion to say a good word to us, please express it openly. I now request Mrs. Devasahayam to distribute the prizes.

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The lost Property. show Window.

by

P. NARAYANA KURUP, S. I. OF POLICE, RECORD SECTION.

The City Police is doing its best in the prevention and detection of crime, but it has its toughest problem relating to the disposal of 'unclaimed properties'. In the rough and tumble of life in a City like Madras with a population of 14 lakhs, and a large influx of persons from outside on some business or other, one could imagine the vast possibilities of persons losing their valuable properties by accident or otherwise, and the scope of tracing the owners being rendered definitely limited. A lot of valuable properties either lost, or stolen and recovered as 'unclaimed' are sold in public auction for want of identification. Hence the need for a more intelligent handling of such properties than by mass treatment by publication of their discription in the Crime and Occurrence sheet or by proclamation in the Fort St. George Gazette, has been long recognised.

Recently, the Commissioner of Police, Sri J. Devasahayam (now I. G. of Police) after a study of the problem from a point of adminstrative expediency, and in collaboration with the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch, Sri M. Singaravelu introduced what is called a 'Lost property Show Window', which is something of a novelty that has never been tried in India, if not in Western countries. This 'show window , was opened in the presence of a distinguished gathering and press men on 12-5 53 at the Police Commissioner's Office. With the help of this organisation, it is hoped that the disposal of 'unclaimed properties' would be receiving the same degree of attention as other spheres of police duty.

'The Lost Property Show Window' is a fairly spacious room. Its reconstruction has been carefully planned and carried out under supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch. The thick iron netting in the frontage has been entirely replaced by

thick plate glass. Behind it are four glass show cases, fitted with mercury lights for use at night, if need be. Methodically ticketed unclaimed articles such as watches, fountain pens, cigarette cases, time pieces, umbrellas, gold and silver ornaments such as rings, bangles etc are displayed on the shelves, making them clearly visible from the outside. There is a large cycle stand on which are placed cycles of various types and makes. These articles were left behind by some unfortunate men in their mood of forgetfulness, and they are lying there for want of identification. The visitors are afforded facilities to view and examine them.

The 'show window' is open to public view on all working days between 9 a.m. and 12 Noon and again 2 P. M. and 5 P. M. A Sub-Inspector of Police is in direct charge of the same, and the Inspector of Police, Record Section (Sri A. Ramanatha Ayyar) is in over-all charge of it. Immediate action is taken in cases of identified articles for their restoration to the owners.

The Sub-Inspector maintains a register of the numerous items of unclaimed articles contributed by the various stations in the City where they were deposited at the first instance, indicating the circumstances under which they were treated as 'unclaimed', and under classified heading such as watches, pens etc. In a slick second a visitor could get information about any one of them.

In the experimental stage, half a dozen cycles, fountain pens, and a purse containing cash Rs. 60/- and a photograph were restored to the resepective owners.

As you read this, visitors will be streaming to see the exhibits with the hope, to identify their lost articles. Its visits will provide not only a unique satisfaction to those who have a run of luck, but also a unique opportunity to its originators to measure their achievements in this new venture.

You might ask, how a cycle would lie 'unclaimed'. I think, I can sum up my main points in quite a few words. In Madras City, there are a number of cycle repair shops, and cycle hiring shops. The owners of these shops should maintain a register showing the full description of the cycles they possess for hiring, and in the case of cycles received for repair or sale, they should also note full details of the persons entrusting such cycles, and also the description of the cycles. A breach of this rule is viewed with suspicion by the Police. More often than not, they do not maintain such a register, lest the Police would detect their fraud or underhand dealing. And without wishing in any way to be dogmatic, I cannot emphasise too strongly the need to check these shops in the City frequently.

A person who hires a cycle for a few hours abandons it after removing a dynamo light or some such valuable part. The cycle shop keeper, in order to escape the consequence of his failure to maintain a register is reluctant to report the matter to the Police.

Somewhat the same method is applied by a miscreant who pinches a cycle on which is tied a tiffin carrier by an unfortunate workman. The miscreant eats the tiffin, sells the tiffin carrier to some one and finally abandons the cycle.

The cru of the matter, as usual, in cases of this class, is a lamentable lack of description which prevents the cycle being identified by the owner.

Nevertheless, in cases of unclaimed articles, we cannot blame the owners for their failure to furnish correct particulars of the description. For, how many of you, readers, describe the face of your watch? What figures are on it? What is the exact wording of the inscription on the cigarette case presented to you? The reason for your failure to recollect them is that although you see your articles, you do not observe them. So unless one makes a note of them, it is difficult to give description when they are missed.

I remember a funny incident about the disposal of an unclaimed silver ring set with a green stone in public auction. Among other articles, it came up for auction, and there was a lot of bidders including two calculating Marwaris. No one took any particular notice of this ring. But the two Marwaris who knew all about this ring contested the bid vigorously, and the bid amount went up to Rs. 300/- In the context, the auctioning officers's suspicion being aroused, he sent it to Messrs P, Orr and Sons for valuation. It was found that the ring was a solid platinum ring set with an emerald worth Rs. 900/-

I can only submit in the light of the above facts that lack of accuracy of details of description of the unclaimed ring, rendered it unidentifiable. If only it was exhibited in a Show Window, the owner would have identified it.

In dealing with the subject of the disposal of 'unclaimed properties', some mention may be made about rewards granted to the finders.

1. When the sale value of the unclaimed property does not exceed Rs. 50/-, an amount not exceeding 25 per cent will be given to the finder.

2. When the sale value exceeds Rs. 50/- an amount not exceeding 10 per cent of the sale value will be paid to the finder.

3. A reward according to the above scale will at once be paid to the finder of cash or currency notes on his producing the articles before the Police.

(G.O No. 1677-Judicial dated 13th August 1913 & G.O. No. 2652 Judicial dated 18th December 1913)

Finally, my object in introducing this subject is not merely to bring the 'show window' under the glare of publicity, but also to indicate that it is a matter of first grade importance that civic

consciousness must stir up in the minds of the citizens for their co-operation by depositing any unclaimed article, whatever its worth, at the nearest Police station. The Police exists for safeguarding the welfare of the society, and it is legally and morally entitled to depend upon the co-operation of the public.

*   *   *

WHISPERING NEMESIS.

BY SUB-INSPECTOR D. MANUEL REDDI, D. S. B., VIZIANAGRAM.

Sushila dreamed that her mother had died suddenly and under horrible circumstances although the dream was vague and nebulous as to the exact details of those circumstances. Sushila awakened in time to stifle a scream and sat up trembling until full consciousness soothed her pounding heart and jangling nerves. Her husband slept peacefully and a short tour of inspection showed her pretty fifteen year old daughter likewise was wrapped up in slumber. Yet for a long time she lay awake, unable to banish from her mind the dream and its horrible portent. Finally, as the early morning hours wore on, she sank into a fitful and troubled sleep.

The next morning - Monday - Sushila related her dream to her husband and daughter. "I can't get that dream out of my mind," she added. "I have a feeling that mother needs me and that something terrible is going to happen to her. I'm going to see her today."

But her husband and daughter remonstrated with her. They pointed out that her mother had been in excellent health when they heard from her a few days before. They discounted the dream's importance as would any other person of a practical turn of mind. With a heavy heart she gave in.

All that day the dream haunted Sushila. Again that night she slept fitfully and again occurred the terrible nightmare, identical with that of the previous night. Before she finally went back to sleep at two O' clock in the morning she had resolved that, regardless of every thing else, she was going to Telaprolu and see her mother.

The next morning her husband and daughter realised her distraught condition and humoured her whim. Her daughter agreed to go with her Taking with them nothing beyond a satchel containing a single change of clothes for each, they were in time to catch the first bus just pushing out of the bus-stand.

At Telaprolu, Janakibai worked in the backyard of her home, raking up rubbish here and there and burning accumulated trash. She worked briskly for a woman of her age - 61 years. She had lived in the village for over 40 years. Years before, her husband died leaving her with only the income from a small farm to support her three children. Not only had this indomitable little woman reared and educated her children, but she had accumulated three more farms and three houses which she rented out. She was comfortably well off. Yet so ingrained were the habits of thrift formed in leaner days, that she practically supported herself by selling milk and eggs.

A passing bus stopped on the trunk road running past her farm about a hundred yards away and some passengers got down. Two of them - women - wended their way towards her farm. As they came nearer, her failing eye sight revealed her grand-daughter, Kamala, hastening to embrace her. Her beautiful little grand-daughter had always been a favourite with her and she was overjoyed to see her. After they had embraced, Kamala gazed at her critically. "I am afraid you are not well," she exclaimed.

"I think perhaps I got too tired working out here in the sun," answered Janakibai, wearily wiping her face. They turning to her daughter, she said, "I've been wanting to see you - I was afraid you wouldn't come."

They went into the house together. Sushila was relieved to find her horrible dream had no foundation in fact. For about fifteen minutes they chatted. Suddenly Janakibai took to shivering and had to be helped to bed. Soon she lapsed into a coma. The only Rural Medical Practioner available was sent for. He hurriedly examined Janakibai who was semi-conscious by now. He was frankly puzzled by the sudden attack but gave her a lypodermic injection in the arm and mixed another sedative to be swallowed. When her condition was somewhat improved, Dr. Subbarao made a hurried trip to his dispensary where he was detained for about an hour. While he was

absent, Janakibai took a turn for the worse. He was albus sent for hut he arrived too late. The aged woman died in an agonizing con-vulsion.

Sushila had arrived at about 1300 hrs. and by 1600 hrs. her horrible dream had materialised before her eyes.

Since the death was sudden and unnatural, the Village Munsif reported it to the local Police. Sub-Inspector Mohan held an inquest over the dead body. During the examination Dr. Subbarao stated, "She died a very peculiar death. The symptoms were unusual and are not ordinarily connected with such sudden seizures. Frankly, I was very much distressed and puzzled. The symptoms, convulsions and the shrinking of the iris of the eye, indicated poisoning. Yet I could not believe that any one could have possibly poisoned Janakibai. Nor could I believe that the poison could have been self administered. Nevertheless, I decided to test her for reactions which might indicate poisoning. I stepped behind the head of her bed and clapped my hands together loudly. This sent her into another convulsion. A little later - although it appeared cruel to do so - I repeated the test. Again the reaction was the same. This indicated that she was suffering from one of two things - strychnine poisoning or tetanus. I examined her for a wound which might have been caused by a rusty nail and could find no scratch of any kind. So I am inclined towards the strychnine theory." Finally it was decided to send body for autopsy and the viscera with the contents there of to the Chemical Examiner for analysis. A verdict of death due to a doubtful cause was recorded at the inquest.

Sub Inspector Mohan got busy and unleashed his sleuths to work up the case. He learned strongly towards the poison theory shared by his officers as well. Had not Janakibai enjoyed good health right up to the time of her sudden death ? Had she not reacted to tests in such a way as to indicate she had been poisoned with strychnine ?

Sub Inspector Mohan racked his brain to try to theorise on the identity of the brutal poisoner. Who could possibly have any reason to poison this woman - universally beloved and respected? The two brothers of Sushila - Kumar and Ravindranath - married and employed in the State Rly. at Hyderabad, apprised of the sudden demise of their mother, arrived a bit too late for the cremation of the remains of Janakibai. They, too, as were the residents of the locality, were genuinely shocked at the incident and could not furnish the investigating officer with material to work up the poison theory.

Sub Inspector Mohan was thus left to his own intitiative and resourcefulness. With characteristic diligence and thoroughness born of ten years of experience as an investigating officer, he probed into all aspects of the case. He interrogated scores of witnesses - mostly a pathetic, generally uncommunicative and particularly suspicious of getting involved in a police investigation. He concluded that if Janakibai was poisoned it must be by some one who stood to profit by her death and who was thoroughly familiar with her household and her habits. She had lived all alone in that modest little house and her will revealed that she had left her entire property equally to her three children.

A close check-up of the contracts of the deceased yielded no positive results. A painstaking probe into the antecedents, activities and movements of all her neighbours and visitors continued.

The chemical anyalisis of the contents of the viscera revealed enough strychnine to kill three persons.

Now the question arose as to the source of the poison, the identity of the purchaser and how it was administered to the deceased. There was no drug store at Telaprolu village and the nearest places where pharmacies existed were Gannavaram and Kanumolu, situated about ten miles away on either side of the village. Head Constable Vallabharao could unearth no sales transactions of strychnine at

Gannavaram. At Kanumolu village he was however a bit lucky. The records maintained by Druggist Venkatramayya there indicated a sale of 53 grains of strychnine about two days previous to the murder to a woman who signed her name as MANIKONDA ANASUYA of Veeravalli village in the Registor of Poisons. Venkatramayya could not throw any light on the idently of the woman. He said, "She was a stranger to me. She was hefty, dark in complexion and aged about 30 years. She appeared well educated. She was taken aback when I asked her to sign her name in the Register of Poisons against the sale entry and hesitated for a few moments. Finally she wrote her name in Telugu. She said that she required the poison to kill rats and bandicoots that were infesting her barns."

Though at first reluctant and apparently unfriendly, when the gravity of the situation was brought to bear upon him, Venkatramayya agreed to co-operate with the authorities in unravelling the mystery surrounding the death of Janakibai. Both of them proceeded to Veeravalli, hardly six miles away and very easily traced Manikonda Anasuya. She was the wife of a middle class ryot-fair, stocky and about 25 years old. Though Venkatramayya swore that she was not the purchaser, a check-up of her movements completely exonerated her from all complicity in this murder.

Nothing daunted, they next proceeded to Telaprolu village where the Head Constable arranged to point out to Venkatramayya on the slay all the women in the village who had at one time or other some thing to do with the dead woman. Though he was not quite positive, Venkatramayya felt that the wife of one of the tenants of the dead woman, the Branch Manager of a local Bank who came down to Telaprolu about 6 months back-by name SAROJINI bore resemblance to the poison purchaser. Head Constable Vallabharao posted a mufti constable to surveil this woman Sorojini unobtrusively without arousing her suspicions and hurried back to the Police Station and laid before Sub Inspector Mohan the information collected by him.

The Sub Inspector was delighted to find a lead in an otherwise what appeared to be an insoluble murder mystery and set the machinery in motion to run down this clue.

Grimly facing the obstacles unfolded by the investigation in a rural area where mobs, that crowded round him, apprehensively moved away when he interrogated any one about this case, Sub Inspector Mohan plodded on with his enquiries. Though not in the presence of a police officer, tongues began to wag as weeks rolled on. The dead woman and Sarojini were very good friends and the latter used to spend most of her leisure time particularly the afternoons with the old woman helping her in her chores. They used to go out together for shopping and to pictures. About two months back the younger woman purchased 12 sovereigns worth of gold chain-CHANDRA HARAMU. Sub Inspector Mohan had a job to get an insight into her antecedents and her financial position. She studied up to SSLC and married about twelve years back. She was still childless. Her parerts were poor and esurient. Her husband possessed no other sources of income beyond his pay of Rs. 150/- per mensem for work in the Bank. Beyond two pairs of gold bangles to each hand, Sarojini bore no other jewellery on her person when she came down to Telaprolu. Where could she get such an enormous amount of money to purchase the jewel shortly after coming down here ? The answer to this question appeared to be inexplicably entwined with the mysterious death of Janakibai.

The deceased Janakibai was a reserved, conservative woman who did not easily make friends with others and who never gave publicity to her private affairs. She appeared to have fallen under the spell of the dominating personality of Sarojini whose suave disposition and winsome manners broke and penetrated the steel armour of reserve enveloping her. The position of Sarojini's husband as Branch Manager of the Bank who handled the finances of the deceased aided in the efforts of the younger woman to urge her way into the deceased's heart.

Sub Inspector Mohan went through the bank accounts of the deceased and was stunned by the shock of as startling revealation-a with-drawal of one thousand rupees by the deceased on a self cheque exactly 2 months before her death and there was no account as to what she did with the money. Her three children were quite unaware of this withdrawal and were astounded on learning the news. They had never known her withdraw any money from the bank ; she who was so frugal as to border on being parsimonious was given to only depositing money in the bank and not to withdrawing. Moreover what had she to do with such a large sum of money? They could not answer it.

It was a laboured task for Sub Inspector Mohan to connect this withdrawal with the purchase of the jewel by Sarojini. The old woman had confessed in two of her neighbours that she had given a loan of Rs. 1000/- to Sarojini to enable her to purchase a Chandraharamu on the assurance that the amount would be paid in a month soon after Sarojini's father received his insurance amount. The old woman was present when the gold was bought and when the goldsmith was commissioned to make the jewel. She looked with pardonable pride when Sarojini first wore the jewel and said in the hearing of a few women that for the bounty of Janakibai she could not have got the jewel. The servant maid and the farm hand of the deceased gave out that for about a month previous to the death, they found the deceased and Sarojini engaged in whispers on several occasions and they would break away on the approach of others and resume normal talk. Putting two and two togther, the servants could infer that the old woman was pressing for payment and the younger woman was putting up all manner of excuses. A stormy scene occurred between them about a week prior to the murder when some of the neighbouring women had to interfere and to patch up the quarrel. Sarojini promised to send a wire to her father to send the money at once. The genial old lady was apparently satisfied at the prospect of getting back her

money at the most in a week and forgot the incident. The servant maid who kept mum all along now began to talk and with what revealations ?

Sarojini was with the old woman on the afternoon of her death. When the old woman complained of the hot sun with the consequent thirst, Sarojini prepared a glass of lime juice and gave it to Janakibai. A little later Sarojini left the place as Janakibai went into the backyard. Presently Sushila and her daughter had arrived.

Armed with this evidence Sub Inspector Mohan arrested Sarojini; a search of her house revealed nothing incriminating. Neither the death glass nor the remnants of the poison could be traced in her house. Her sample handwriting sent to the Govt. Examiner of Questioned Documents was, however found to be identical with the pseudonymous signature in the Register of Poisons.

The mass of circumstantial evidence thus gathered was found to be sufficient in the court to convict Sarojini for the inhuman murder of Janakibai with a view to evade payment of the loan.

One can only wonder if the diabolical plotting in the murderer's brain was actually transmitted by mental telepathy to the sub-conscious mind of the intended victim's daughter who more than twenty miles away. Had not her daughter come in time, Janakibai would have collapsed in the backyard and died there without a doctor being present to note the symptoms of poisoning. Because of the advanced age she would probably have been cremated without any investigation being made to determine the cause of her death. Nemesis-the Goddess of Vengeance seemed to paint a dream picture of warning. Frustrated she repeated the horrible prophesy in another dream.

*   *   *

INVESTIGATION INTO BROKEN GLASS PANES.

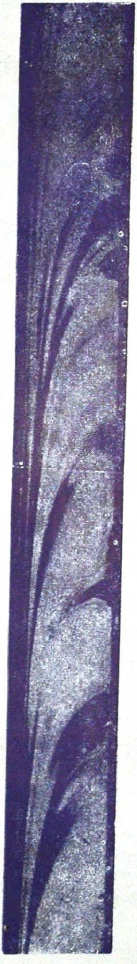
by

(A. V. SUBRAMANIAM, POLICE LABORATORY C. I D., MADRAS.)

Occasionally it may be of vital importance in an investigation to determine the direction from which a bullet was fired or a blow was struck with reference to a pane of glass. In many cases of arson, insurance fraud, faked burglaries and murders a glass window or a glass door may have been broken from inside instead of from outside. Similarly, a hit and run car driver after an accident may break the window from inside because of the danger of attracting any possible witness, abandon the car in an out of the way place and try to wash off any responsibility from the accident by saying that the car had been stolen.

2. The problem then arises to determine the direction in which force was applied in breaking the window or the door as the case may be. Certain other details such as the direction from which the shot was fired in the case of bullet holes; the force of impact, i. e., nature of the physical shock - whether steady force or a sharp blow and certain other factors can also be deduced from a close and careful examination of the broken pane.

3. If the window pane has been struck and the pieces remain in position in the window frame it should be examined carefully and removed for further detailed examination. But where it is shattered and the pieces are lying on the ground a careful note should be made about the distribution of the glass pieces on the ground. The next step is to piece the glass pieces together. The outside can be distinguished from the inside by the characteristic dirt, grime or water spots if the window had been exposed to the weather. The sides of the glass by the relation



of the pieces on the ground will also help the process. Where no such characteristic marks are visible some marks must be made on the pieces remaining in the frame so as to fix the side-whether it was in the inside or outside before its removal for detailed examination. Now it could be seen that the fractured glass will be generally of the pattern consisting of continuous lines radiating from the point of impact known as radial fractures and interrupted spirals concentric with the point of impact and known as spiral fractures.

A. Radio and spiral fractures.

RADIAL FRACTURES.

4. When a pane of glass is struck by a stone or a bullet it first bends a little and the surface opposite the impact is thrown into a state of tension, which because of the imperfect elasticity of glass results in cracking along radial lines. This cracking begins on the side opposite to the side of impact and travels fast.

SPIRAL FRACTURES.

5. Spiral fracture is not always present in broken panes, but is most commonly found in laminated glass such as that of an automobile window because it is more flexible than ordinary glass. Two theories are given for the formation of these fractures. Immediately after impact the glass rebounds and the compression - stress on the impact surface changes to tension. The glass now begins to crack on the impact surface in the form of spirals which are interrupted by the radial fractures. The other theory is that cracking in the radial line divides the pane into a number of triangles which also bend away from the direction of the destroying force. By this bending, the glass, which is resisted by the main body is stretched. So the glass is now pushed in the opposite direction, i. e., along the impact surface until the limit of elasticity is exceeded and the glass begins

to break on this surface concentric with the point of impact. These fractures are interrupted by the radial lines which had occurred earlier. It can be said that the number of spiral patterns present depend on the force applied. The energy being the same a rapid dynamic force produces more spiral patterns than a slow, relatively static force.

B. Cross-section showing Rib marks.

6. Two general types of markings may be visible when a cross section of a fractured glass is viewed (1) rib marks and (2) hackle marks.

RIB MARKS.

Rib marks are lines which begin normal to one surface and curve asymptotically towards the other. A series of ribs regularly produced indicate a slow fracture caused by a minimum force. Heavy rib marks spaced far apart indicate a region of tension. For our purpose the most significant point to be noted is that the rib marks begin normal to the surface on which the glass begins to crack and tangential to the other surface. This phenomenon will be the deciding factor for determining the impact surface in a glass fracture. The first point is therefore to determine whether the fracture is radial or spiral. In a radial fracture the impact surface is the one which is tangent to the rib marks. In the other spiral fracture the impact surface is the one which is at right angles to the rib marks. This, as already stated follows the fact that radial fracture open on the surface opposite to the impact surface while the spiral fracture open on the side of impact and the rib arks mare perpendicular to the side on which the fracture opens. For the purpose of examination whether glass has been broken from within or without only fractures showing their points of origin or which can be shown to be radial or spiral should be utilised. Small fractures near the frame should be avoided as the resistance offered by the frame complicates matters.

C. Rib marks in (a) radial fracture (b) spiral fracture-arrow indicates the direction of impact.

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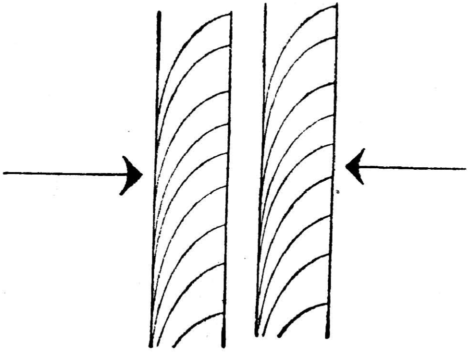

(a) (b)

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HACKLE MARKS.

8. Hackle marks run in the direction of movement of the fracture and are at right angles to the rib marks. The presence of hackle marks indicates that the glass has been subjected to a large shearing force and the rupture was sudden and explosive in nature. As these marks are at right angles to the rib marks they are further helpful in aiding to fix the impact surface especially so when the rib marks are absent.

9. In addition to the two fractures mentioned earlier in Para 4 and 5 there is a third fracture known as cone fracture. When a metal ball or pebble is thrown at a window pane a crater is formed on the opposite side, opposite to the impact surface. The distribution of the flaking about the crater will give more details about the direction of the impact especially if the fracture is by a bullet. There will be a uniform flaking about the crater if the shot was fired perpendicular to the glass frame. If the shot is fired at an angle from the right, the left side of ths glass will have more flaking while if it is from the left there will be excessive flaking on the right side. Generally a bullet hole will have the sharpest edge. But if it had been fired from a very long distance and strikes the pane at a low speed it will break the pane in the same manner as a stone.

10. It may be at times necessary to find out which of the 2 bullet holes on a window frame was fired first. It will be noticed that the fractures caused by the first bullet will be complete especially the radial fractures, while the fractures in the second bullet will be interrupted and stopped at points where they intercept those from the first bullet.

11. It is interesting to note that the safety glass which is most commonly found in automobiles provides excellent study of radial and spiral fractures as it does not shatter when struck

sharply. Here the cracking is not complete and the radial cracks do not extend to the side of impact and the spiral crack does not extend to the opposite side of impact. So by running the finger nail if the radial crack is felt then that side is not the surface of impact while if by the same method the spiral crack is felt that side is the surface of impact. When a spiral fracture is absent the fact that radial fracture is felt on one side and not the other is significant.

12. It may further be stated that the safety glass has a tendency to bend instead of shattering when struck. The side on which the glass is struck will be found to be concave and it can easily be observed by laying a long straight-edged ruler and observing the space between the ruler and the glass.

* * *

Letter to the Editor.

As a teacher, Police School, Madurai for about ten years and as Sub-Inspector for about 15 years I offer the following suggestions to the Recruit Sub-Inspectors for your kind perusal and publication in the Police Journal if acceptable.

In 1915 when I was Sub Inspector, Iluppur Station, Tiruchirappalli District in One Sankarapatti Murder case the accused absconded for a long time and I was directed by the Circle inspector and the Deputy Superintendent of Police to issue stringent orders for finding out and arresting him soon. As my efforts to trace him proved futile at last, prayed to God earnestly to help me in the matter relying on the text of proverb "Heaven is the help of the helpless". Then some days later on a night I had a dream that one venerable old man appeared before me and directed me to find out the accused in a Idumban Kavadi Puja feat in a village in my jurisdiction. So next morning I directed the Head constables to enquire about it and to inform me if such a puja was going to be performed in any village. One of the beat constables who returned from beat informed me that in one village such a puja was to be performed that day. Except the station sentry all the station staff and I went in disguise in a double bullock cart covered with curtains in both sides like a Muhammadan Purda cart and stopped it at a furlong's distance from the village and then I sent a constable in disguise who knew him well to the said house in the village. He returned and informed that the accused was there and we all went there and besieged the house and arrested the accused. All the villagers etc. were glad to say that "God helps all those who help themselves".

In 1917 when I was in charge of Narikudi Station, Ramnad District in one house-breaking and theft case the accused, a notorious criminal absconded for a long time. In this case also

I tried my best to find out the accused but no information was forthcoming regarding his whereabouts. At last I prayed to God to help me in the matter as there was no other way except complete dependence on Him. On a day at about 4 a. m. in my dream one saint like Palaniyandavar appeared and told me to find out in the village Thevikilavikulam. I got up from my bed and went to the station and except the Station sentry all the station staff and I went to the village Kilavikulam and chased and arrested the accused, a notorious criminal named Thothan alias Periyakaruppan of Arasakulam village and he was charged and booked. In this case I was given a reward of Rs. 25/- by the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Southern Range.

In 1937 when I was a Revenue Superintendent, Rameswaram Devasthanam one Peishkar, named Subbiah Pillai of Kilanathakurichi Division misappropriated the Devasthanam money and he was charged for it. He absconded for a year or so. At last one night in my dream one old man like one Battar of the Rameswaram Devasthanam appeared and told that the culprit was at Manjur. Next morning my peon Alagirisamy Naidu and I went to the village Manjur and learnt that he was in the said village under one Nattukottai Chettiar as his accountant working at night only for a year or so and not stirring out in day time. So we waited by the side of the said Chettiar's house and at about 10 p.m. when he came out of the house to wash his hands after taking meals, we seized him and brought him to the Paramakudi Police Station for necessary action. He was tried by the Vilathikulam Magistrate and was convicted. The Magistrate and others were very glad to say that every thing happened by the Grace of God as a proverb "God helps all those who help themselves".

4. In April 1940 when I was leaving the Rameswaram Devasthanam Service, one Pattabiram Iyer, the Executive Officer, Rameswaram Devasthanam recommended me for bonus for my

good work and restoring the southern range into a good condition and the Hindu Religious Endownment Board accepted in recommendation and directed the Committee Members to give bonus and they gave me a bonus of rupees two hundred and fifty

5. I have narrated the above events in my official carreer for the information of the present generation of Sub-Inspectors and .ther officers in order that they may seek likewise the Divine Grace for the revelation of truths in intricate cases obscured in mystery and supernatural guidance in matters beyond human vision and comprehension.

* * *

IN THE HEART OF ARCOT.

MAJOR-GENERAL E. HABIBULLA.

For a soldier, one of the fascinations of South India is the number of old world fortresses and former battle-fields with which it abounds. Some of the fortresses are remarkably well preserved and on entering them one is intrigued by the tactical doctrine that must have dictated their shape. Wandering on the battlements or peeping across dilapidated gun positions and ramparts the warriors of not so long ago return to one's side like those in Kipling's "Puck of Pooks Hill"; till gradually, the rock of smoke, the sound of cannon and the clang of metal on metal surround one. Battles of bygone days leap to life and the agony and blood of defeat or triumph of former lords of hosts overwhelms the mind of the pensive wanderer. He is not alone.

One of the most attractive of these fortresses is at Vellore on the Palar River and in the heart of Madras's recruiting area, near Arcot. It is at present used as a training school for police cadets and officers. It also houses some Government offices and the local Bar Association. Though the drawbridge has gone and some of the buildings have been altered, there is still a good deal of the old atmosphere. What is more, its history of the past two centuries is perfectly preserved.

Situated at the foot of the gap which leads from the Carnatic on to the Deccan plateau towards Mysore, Vellore has always been of importance in history. That is probably why no one knows when and by whom the fort was built; but like everything ancient in our land, it has its own fabulous story. It is a strange and attractive myth.

Within Vellore Fort is a temple said to have been built by Bhommayya (or Bhomi) Reddi, brother of Thimmayya; both the sons of Kamalakshmi, the senior wife of one Ethna Reddi. Now

Bhommayya noticed that in his herd of cattle one of his milch cows always returned from grazing with empty udders. One day he followed up the cow and, to his surprise, found that a five-headed cobra, putting its head out of an ant hill, sucked the cow dry. Thereupon the awestruck Bhomi fell to prayer and meditation, for surely this was something supernatural. The god Samba Siva who had taken the form of the cobra thus appeared in human form in Bhomi's dream.

The god offered Bhomi a fortune and ordered him to build a temple on the position of the ant hill. This Bhommayya did with much care and diligence, employing a holy architect from the Himalayas, clearing the Velam (Babul) forest and founding hard by a town called Vellore.

The temple was scarce completed when the architect's son, wandering from the Himalayas in quest of his father came to the Palar River. He took one look at the lovely temple and shaking his head said it would never do; it had been started on an entirely inauspicious day. However, Bhomi had already seen another peculiar sight; he had seen a dog chasing some hares, when, without warning, one of the hares turned around and chased away the bewildered dog. Having done this, the hare then ran a peculiar course round the area of the former ant hill. The architect's son said that if, instead of building another temple they built a fort on the trace of the hare's run that would put matters aright. So on an auspicious day the fort was started, and it was completed in the year Eshwara on the 11th of the Tamil month of Panguni (1273).

Today the Vellore Fort is tactically not well sited, for it is overlooked by low hills within easy range. The hills also have small ruined fortresses on them, built by various people, much later. There were numerous battles fought in and around the fort

which, as has been said, was the key to the route from the Deccan. Names such as Shivaji and Hyder Ali are connected with its occupation. The temple still stands though without an image. British historians say that Muslims must have removed it, but there is positive evidence to show that many of the Muslim rulers held the shrine and its idol in superstitious veneration. The British themselves, on the other hand, used the temple for many years as an Arsenal. The Kalyan mantapam (Central Hall) which contains exquisite sculptures, was almost sent to England to decorate a pleasure pavilion in Brighton for the Prince Regent, Fortunately a storm snak the cargo ship coming from England for the purpose of carrying away the Mantapam. After this, bullocks were tethered to some of the carvings and extra walls were built to house the SSO's office. Not till Lord Curzon's time was it thought anything but an old pagan curiosity of little value.

Interesting as all these facts are the most historic and interesting feature of Vellore fort is the last great struggle which it saw; the Mutiny of July 1806. If the rising of 1857 can be described as a "War of Liberation", then the grim Martyrdom of 1806 should be surely recognized as a deed of historical significance. Its outcome without doubt led to permanent acceptance of subjection by the South.

After the death of Tippu in 1799 the East India Company had become more demanding, while their commitments in England had well outstripped their dwindling income in India, with the result that the Company's debt "had risen from £ 17,059,192 in 1797 to £ 31 638,827 in 1806, with a revenue of £ 15,403,409" to meet it. Nor were the increasing wars into Central India and the harsh extraction of revenues in the South able to balance the deficit. Moreover the people in the South had now come to the sad realization that their whole land was inextricably under the sway of a group of adventurers from without and that Tippu, their last hope, may never be replaced by an indigenous champion.

So, inspired by the presence of Tippu's family, who were incarcerated in Vellore Fort, the general ferment came to a head. At the same time there is not the slightest evidence that any one of the Sultan's family had anything to do with the rising.

The rumours of discontent and warnings that secret meetings were being held among the Sepoys were ignored. It is interesting to note that at this time "the Sepoys of Madras still represented the elite of the native army. They were the representatives of the men who fought under Eyre Coote-at Wandiwash and Porto Novo-and the Company treated them as pampered children".

Some later writers attribute the Mutiny to orders issued by the Madras army which were unpalatable to the Sepoy. Thus they claim that the Mutiny as such was just an internal military affair. Further research into current opinion, corroborated by that of Sri Thomas Munro, who was at the period stationed between Vellore, Madanapalli and Fort St. George, goes to show signs of great frustration and unrest throughout Mysore and the South, culminating in the struggle at Vellore. Thus the orders of the Madras army may merely have extenuated events.

A quotation from a letter written in 1804 by Sri Thomas Munro to Arthur Wellesly (later Wellington) reads: "More territory can hardly be desirable until we have consolidated our power in what we possess since the fall of Seringapatam. The European force is in consequence much below the proportion which it ought to hold in native battalions we cannot suppose that it is impossible to shake the fidelity of our Sepoys."

Other writers talk of "fakirs" moving through the land predicting trouble; of emissaries going freely back and forth. Historically therefore it is unquestionably established that the capture of Vellore was to be a signal for a general rising and the "Sepoy Mutiny" was to be the first blow to break the new shackles.

The attack was made at .dawn on July 10, 1806 by the 23rd Regiment of Infantry. This took their British comrades by surprise. Now the 23rd Regiment was chiefly Hindu but it is at times amusing to read the various distortions attempted by later historians to draw a distinct line between the behaviour and motives of Hindus and Muslims ; whereas the two acted in perfect co-ordination throughout. Sir Thomas Munro again confirms the full combination of both in his letter to the Governor from Annantpur.

While the remainder of the 23rd attacked the British barracks and officers' quarters the Muslim company seized the gates and overpowered the sentries. The Indians however failed to capture the Magazine.

The Europeans who were at first surprised recovered as best they could; though Col. McKenas. C. O. of the 23rd, and Col. Fancourt the garrison commander were killed. While the small beleaguered British band was hard pressed, an officer who lived outside the fort rode to Ranipet (16 miles) where there was a large Cavalry station. From here Col. Gillespie (later General Sir Rollo Gillespie) galloped full tilt to the rescue of his countrymen.

On arrival at Vellore the Colonel found the gates shut. So, leaving his men to enter later, he had himself pulled by a rope and organised the forcing of a gate in the North portion of the fort.

Again certain historians have stated that the sepoys had killed all women and children; but this is wrong, as Mrs. Fancourt's own story of her experiences was taken down later in England, where she went with her children.

In the meanwhile the Sepoys appear to have taken it for granted that victory was theirs. They paid little more than cursory attention to the band of a hundred Britishers at the

Northern corner of the fort from where many officers and soldiers had already escaped over the wall. The striped flag of the Tiger (Tipu's) was hoisted amongst cheers and a general hiatus for "rest and refreshment" seems to have set in.

This was not to last. Col. Gillespie's title band having opened the gate, the Cavalry and Galleper Artillery burst through and like a flood swept the Indian soldiers before them putting a brutal end to the infidelity of the 23rd.

The subsequent reprisal was cruel in the extreme and vengeance for the original surprise was more than taken. According to one account "The Native Cavalry had throughout nobly co-operated with their European comrades. No quarter was given. All buildings in the fort were explored and mutineers found in them pitilessly slaughtered". The same writer with some pride goes on to say how by way of revenge "upward of 100 sepoys who had sought refuge in the Mahals were however brought out and being placed under a wall were fired at with cannister from guns. The total number of mutineers who were killed was very great, eight hundred being found in the fort alone".

This would appear to have been terrible retribution; but no; Mr. A. F. Cox, a biographer of the 19th century. Says "The refugees were mostly captured by the Police in neighbouring villages and no less than six hundred were in irons .....3 native officers 14 non-commissioned oficers and 9 privates were condemned to death at Vellore. Some were hung, some shot and some blown from guns. The last mode of execution produced the profoundest impression. A sepectator described how numbers of kites accompanied the party to the place of execution, flapping their wings and screening as if in anticipation of the bloody feast, till the fatal flash scattered the fragments of bodies in the air; when pouncing on their prey, they caught in their talons many pieces of

quivering flesh before they could reach the ground. At sight of this the native troops employed on this duty, together with the crowed assembled to witness the execution set up a yell of horror".

Thus ended the Mutiny. The rebel units were, needless to say, disbanded and their records expunged from the annals of the Madras Army. From now on the "pet army" of Madras gave pride of place to Bombay and Bengal. The Madras soldier, having served his purpose, was hence-forth less and less favoured.

Indignity too was heaped on the family of Tipu. They were scattered. The male members were carried off to Calcutta.

It is interesting to note that though some 19th century historians indict the Muslim element (as opposed to the Hindu) the one man who kept warning the Europeans of the plot was Mustafa Beg who was subsequently made much of. In fact discontent and action were general and there was no question of creed. Though the sepoy garrison was not more than 1500, a number much in excess of this is shown to have suffered retribution.

It is difficult to asses dispassionately the role, motives and value of the Mutiny. That the Sepoys treacherously attacked their officers while in the pay of the East India Company can from modern standards be held as unsoldierly. On the other hand the motive behind the action was definitely inspired by a forlorn sense of subjugation and loss of freedom. It was intended as an act of liberation, to shake free of the alien and to restore Native rule. Had it only been dealt with firmly and justly one may have been justified in dismissing the incident as a mere mutiny. The deliberate and cruel intimidation of the entire populace which followed could however not fail to demand of posterity the aura of the martyr for those who perished.

The people of Vellore hold in proud veneration the memory of their dead of 1806. Although there is a well preserved cemetry

for the unfortunate British victims.and none for the Sepoys, yet they will live more permanently. In the soil of the 'maidan' in front of the fort their memory is hallowed by their blood and bones.

Today the national tricolour gently hugs the Southern breeze, the Law Association holds its meetings, and the police training school trains excellent cadets within the silent grey walls of the dignified old fort surrounded by a lazy green moat. The pilot of the speeding aircraft covering the route to the West is thankful of the landmark on the banks of the Palar River to give him a fix 80 miles away from Madras. But today the fort has no soldiers, the temple no icon and the Palar River no water.

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